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ABSTRACT

In February, 1971, the Milwaukee Public Schools approved the establishment of "Urban Studies" as a one year elective social studies course. A program Improvement Proposal (PIP) was then formulated to solve implementation problems for this program, stressing use of the city as a learning laboratory. Objectives of the proposal were that teachers in schools involved in the project would: 1) initiate a course in urban studies in the fall; 2) develop an urban studies course outline; 3) and 4) use at least 75% of both the kit and innovative teaching/learning strategies from the High School Geography Project entitled "Geography of Cities"; 5) incorporate community and government resource people into their courses. The state also approved a special Title II Project which provided for acquisition of HSGP materials. A ten day inservice teacher workshop held in August, 1971, offered featured speakers; work with HSGP and other materials; participation in an all day, city field experience; and planning of course outlines and lesson plans. Preliminary feedback from project teachers suggests that the workshop was successful, particularly in the development of useful materials and the use of a laboratory approach to teaching/learning, and what was learned in the workshop was highly transferable into the classroom. (SJM)

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milwaukee public schools

IMPLEMENTING "URBAN STUDIES"

AS A SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVE IN THE MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A Report to
the Social Studies Supervisors' Association
of the
National Council for the Social Studies

SP 003 311

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Division of Curriculum and Instruction

1971

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
EDUCATION & WELFARE
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The Problem

In February of 1971 the Board of Directors for the Milwaukee Public Schools approved the establishment of "Urban Studies" as a one year elective social studies course. Through this action the Board concurred with the recommendation of social studies teachers, department chairmen, and members of the supervisory staff. In March of 1971 the social studies department chairmen met and discussed matters related to the implementation of this course on a city wide basis. A number of significant questions arose. Some dealt with the scope of the course. Others centered on the need for appropriate instructional materials. One of the most important questions was, "How can we best use Metropolitan Milwaukee as a 'learning laboratory'?" A committee of chairmen worked with members of the supervisory staff to formulate a Program Improvement Proposal that would address itself to these questions. (The PIP is a vehicle which enables pupils, parents, teachers, and/or administrators to identify educational needs and design experimental programs to meet these needs.)

A Proposal

As a result of the above action, a PIP entitled "Implementing Urban Studies as a Social Studies Elective in Milwaukee Secondary Schools" was developed. The objectives as stated in the proposal were:

1. Teachers in all schools involved in this project will initiate a course in Urban Studies in the fall.

2. Teachers in all schools involved in this project will develop a course outline for Urban Studies that will be appropriate to the needs of pupils in their building.

3. Teachers in all schools involved in this project will use at least 75% of the kit of diverse instructional materials that constitute the basis for the HSGP unit entitled "Geography of Cities."

4. Teachers in all schools involved in this project will utilize at least 75% of the innovative teaching/learning strategies encompassed in the HSGP that are designed to enhance the development of cognitive skills and basic skills in the use of the modern geographer's tools (i.e., maps, charts, photographs, models, etc.).

5. Teachers in all schools involved in this project will utilize the resources of two or more governmental and community groups whose purposes parallel those of the Milwaukee Public Schools' social studies program. (Examples would include: City Government, League of Women Voters, American Institute of Architects-Milwaukee, UWM, the Urban League, the Milwaukee Bar Association, Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Association, NCCJ, Anti-Defamation League, local newspapers, etc.).

The "Program Design" aspect of the proposal recommended that:

> Teachers or department chairmen representing secondary schools that agree to offer Urban Studies as a social studies elective will engage in a two week inservice workshop during August of 1971. At this time they will study contemporary urban problems, develop cooperatively a rationale for a course in Urban Studies, view demonstrations of pupils using the HSGP materials, play the role of students and utilize these materials, discuss the pedagogical theory behind these materials, preview other multi-media materials that deal with urban affairs, attend briefing sessions conducted by representatives of community groups that will provide service and support to their classes, participate in field trips designed to give them better insight into the metropolitan Milwaukee area, and work individually and in small groups under the leadership of members of the social studies supervisory staff to plan overall course outlines and specific units of study for classroom implementation in fall of 1971.

The proposal also indicated that:

> Each school engaging in this project would have to be provided with one Teacher's Kit and 18 Student Kits (each services two pupils) for the HSGP unit entitled "Geography of Cities."

Action on the Proposal

In June of 1971 the "Urban Studies" PIP was approved by the Milwaukee Board of School Directors. The State Department of Public Instruction subsequently gave final approval to a special Title II Project which provided "matching federal funds" for the acquisition of the High School Geography Project materials.

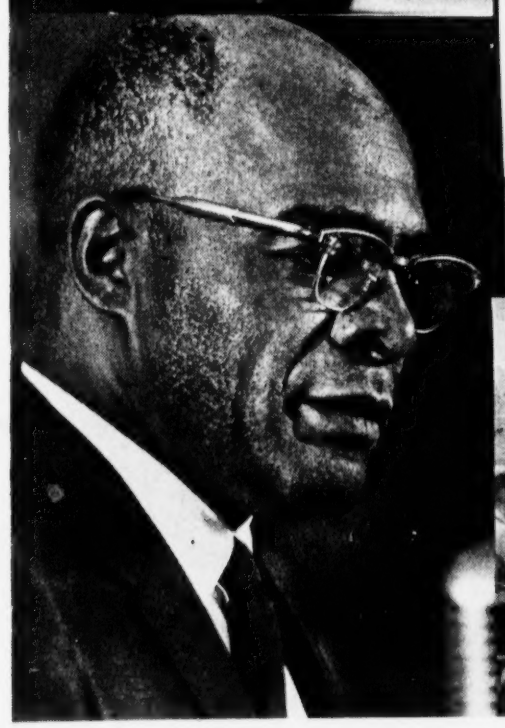
Mobilizing for the Inservice Session

At this point the supervisory staff went into action. Schools and teachers that desired involvement in the program were identified. A set of the HSGP materials was ordered for each participating school. Planning for a two week inservice workshop for teachers was initiated. This included: 1) Ordering appropriate print and audio-visual materials for teacher preview, 2) identifying relevant community leaders who would be willing to address the group, 3) gaining the cooperation of elected officials and governmental agencies on local, state and national levels, 4) planning field experiences, 5) selecting aspects of the HSGP "Geography of Cities" unit to be used in demonstrations involving project teachers, and 6) designing an instructional module that could bring the prospective teachers of Urban Studies together with the resources cited above in an efficient, yet flexible manner. A comprehensive workshop agenda resulted from these efforts. (See Appendix A to this report.) This plan was designed to provide an adequate structure, yet have the flexibility necessary to allow workshoppers to identify and meet their particular needs.

The Workshop

On August 9th the Urban Studies Summer Workshop for teachers got under way. The workshop featured a four track program:

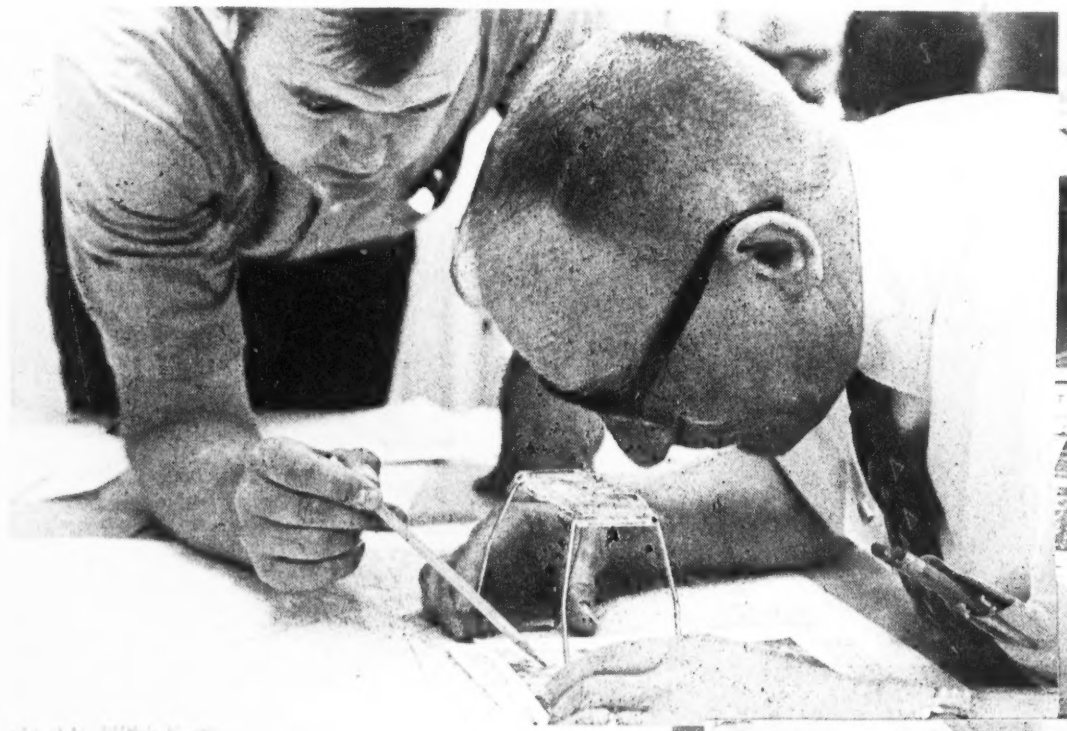
a) "A featured speaker" served as the highlight of the program each day. This service was provided through the efforts of an outstanding group of community, civic, and governmental representatives. Each speaker was carefully chosen so that a wide range of expertise could be brought to bear on the crucial urban problems confronting American society today. The list included elected officials



such as Senator William Proxmire, County Executive John L. Doyne, Mayor Henry W. Maier, and District Attorney E. Michael McCann. It also included the leaders of governmental agencies such as Mr. Kenneth E. Fry, Commissioner, Department of City Development; Mr. Arthur Silverman, Director, Public Welfare Department; Mr. Henry Dillon, Public Information Offices, Department of City Development; Mr. Otto E. Dudy, Training and Information Officer, Milwaukee County Air Pollution Control Department; and Mr. Kurt Bauer, Executive Director, Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Community leaders were not forgotten. Thus the resource group included Mr. Wesley Scott, Executive Director of the Milwaukee Urban League; Mrs. Marilyn Skenandore of the American Indian Information and Action Group; Mr. Luis Lopez of the Milwaukee Spanish Speaking Community; Mr. Norman Gill, Executive Director of the Citizens' Governmental Research Bureau; Mr. Harry Hill, Assistant Managing Editor of the Milwaukee Journal; and Mr. William Wenzler, Architect for Northridge Lakes Estates. Representatives of the City of Milwaukee Department of Fiscal Liaison and the Commission of Community Relations also made presentations followed by film showings.

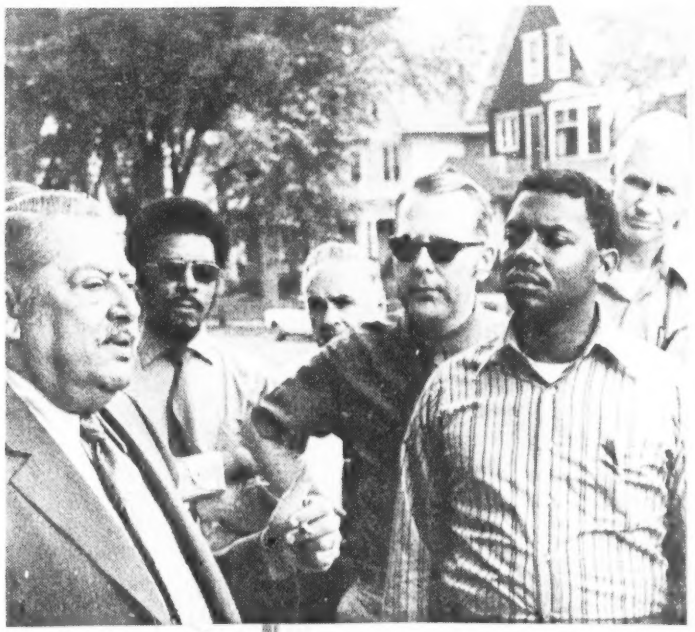
b) Approximately two hours per day were spent working with the HSGP and other instructional materials. This aspect of the program was organized by a person holding a joint appointment to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Department of Education and the Milwaukee Public Schools. Under his leadership, the teachers actually engaged in a practicum which lead them through the materials and teaching strategies they would later use with their ninth and tenth grade pupils. Thus teachers used stereo pairs of aerial photographs to study urban areas. They used leggo boards to project the growth and development of

Portsville (Seattle, Washington) from 1850 to 1900. They learned to use other aspects of the HSGP that had been developed by the American Association of Geographers under an NSF grant. Teachers were also shown how materials



from the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission could be used to "localize" these examinations of city growth and development.

c) <u>One of the activities that workshop participants found to be most successful was an all day field experience</u>. At this time the group visited the Department of City Development. Representatives of this agency conducted an on-site visitation to: 1) areas of urban blight, 2) a high rise housing unit for the elderly,



3) the Model Cities redevelopment area, and 4) several governmental housing projects for the poor. The teachers then toured Northridge Lakes, a planned community being developed by private enterprise. Here they were guided by one of the project architects.

d) Workshop participants worked with social studies supervisors from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to plan course outlines and lesson plans appropriate to the needs of the pupils in their individual schools. As a result, each teacher developed a comprehensive plan of action for the coming year. They recognized, however, that they would probably find reasons to modify this plan as the school year progressed. Project teachers also engaged in sessions which enabled them to preview supplementary instructional materials. This facet of the workshop was coordinated by staff members of the Department of Instructional Resources. Through these efforts a vast array of print media, more than 30 films, 40 filmstrips, and several multi-media kits and simulations dealing with urban affairs were examined by participants. Teachers also had an opportunity to meet with social studies consultants from the State Department of Public Instruction and representatives of other agencies to gain greater insights into the availability and use of other resources that might serve as innovative instructional materials.

The ten day workshop ended on August 20th, giving participants a chance to relax before the start of the school year.

Urban Studies -- A Reality

In September of 1971, 2,100 students and 31 teachers in 21 secondary schools began their joint exploration of Urban Studies. Preliminary feedback from project teachers (as of November 1971) suggests that the summer inservice session had the impact desired. The project teachers were using a wide variety of instructional media including the materials of the HSGP.

Teachers and pupils alike seem to be excited about the results they are having.

Photographs by Ed Wagner, Department of Instructional Resources, Milwaukee Public Schools.

Urban studies classes have engaged in field trips to the central city, Northridge Lakes, the civic center, Chicago, Illinois, and other areas of interest to pupils. A number of community leaders have been used as classroom consultants

with others scheduled for appearances in the near future. A number of teachers have acquired materials from the SEWRPC and have put them into use. Some classes are building their own model cities, mapping their own neighborhoods, and engaging in "rooftop cartography." A number of local school administrators have commented on the enthusiasm and ingenuity being shown by their project teachers. One principal captured the excitement of an urban studies class with a portable VTR unit and thus enabled parents to see the class in action as part of his Open House Program. The major thrust of the inservice workshop -- that of encouraging a laboratory approach to teaching/learning -- seems to have had the desired impact.

Conclusion

Undoubtedly there are many ways to expedite the introduction of a new course into the curriculum of a school system. The pattern described above is but one approach that might be used. Yet, program planners feel that the enthusiasm of teachers and the quickness with which this project has "touched on the lives" of pupils is, in effect, a vote of confidence for the plan of action taken. There are several other outcomes that were not anticipated, yet seem to be worth noting: 1) As a result of this project, the State Department of Public Instruction has established a standing committee on "Urban Affairs." This group will seek better ways to improve the teaching of Urban Studies in Wisconsin secondary schools. Four workshop participants will represent the Milwaukee Public Schools on this voluntary committee. 2) This PIP demonstrated a new and effective way to "blend" federal and local funds. 3) The interest in this area of the curriculum that was generated by this inservice offering contributed to the establishment of a 1972 summer workshop in Urban Studies that will be conducted at UWM under the leadership of Dr. Leon Schur. 4) The workshop

demonstrated some ways to capitalize on the size of a large urban school district, (i.e., the resources it can bring to bear on a problem) yet allow for the differences necessary at the local school level to meet the needs of a diverse urban population, (i.e., local options with respect to course design, instructional materials, etc.). 5) Finally, although difficult to assess, a significant fringe benefit afforded both workshop participants and consultants was the exchange of ideas that the inservice sessions provided. Mutual respect and understanding emerged as parents, community leaders, elected officials, and the directors of governmental agencies worked with classroom teachers and social studies supervisors to consider ways to help our future citizens better understand the problems and opportunities that will be afforded them in urban life.

For Additional Information Contact

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Appendix A

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SUMMER WORKSHOP FOR TEACHERS OF

URBAN STUDIES

August 9-20, 1971

A Social Studies Program Improvement Proposal Funded by the Board of School Directors

Richard P. Gousha - Superintendent of Schools

Dwight Teel - Deputy Superintendent

Bernard J. Weiss - Assistant Superintendent - Division of Curriculum and Instruction

Frisby D. Smith - Executive Director - Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

WORKSHOP STAFF

Arthur H. Rumpf - Workshop Director

Robert A. Donegan - Curriculum Development Consultant

Harold H. Hohenfeldt - Curriculum Development Consultant

Willie Kirk - Curriculum Development Consultant

Charles Gloor - Demonstration Teacher - High School Geography Project

Roger Quabius - Demonstration Teacher - High School Geography Project

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Audubon - Edward Sanford
Bell - Albert Zokan
Edison - Allen Broadwater
Fulton - Ray Blair
Fritsche - Mrs. Pamela Freitag
King - Oakley Guillory
Kosciuszko - Rolf Schladitz
Lincoln - Walter Parker
Madison - Michael Burns
Morse - John Rieger
North - Martin Morgan
Peckham - James Neubauer
Riverside - Gene Rand
Roosevelt - Willie Weaver
Sholes - Dennis Mattson
South - Phillip Balwinski
Steuben - Albert Fraser
Washington - Donald Rasmussen
Wells - Ronald Stechcon
Wright - Mrs. Alice Kohlman

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Division of Curriculum and Instruction
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

URBAN STUDIES WORKSHOP

SCHEDULE

MONDAY - AUGUST 9, 1971

8:30 - 10:15 Welcome and Introduction to the Workshop
Demonstration Session - High School Geography Project (HSGP) - During this block of time each day, teachers will examine and engage in the use of the "Geography of the City" unit of the High School Geography Project under the leadership of Mr. Charles Gloor and Mr. Roger Quabius.

10:15 - 10:30 Coffee Break

10:30 - 12:00 Major Address: "The Crises of Our Cities"
The Honorable Henry W. Maier
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

12:00 - 12:30 Lunch

12:30 - 1:30 Preview Session - During this block of time each day, teachers will have an opportunity to preview audio-visual and print media related to urban affairs.

1:30 - 3:15 Curriculum Development Session - During this block of time each day, teachers will develop a course outline and lesson plans for their Urban Studies course. Mr. Robert Donegan, Mr. Harold Hohenfeldt, and Mr. Willie Kirk will be available as curriculum consultants at this time.

TUESDAY - AUGUST 10, 1971

8:30 - 10:15 Demonstration Session - High School Geography Project

10:15 - 10:30 Coffee Break

10:30 - 12:00 Major Address: "Minority Groups in Milwaukee - Past, Present, and Future"
Panel: Mr. Luis Lopez
Mr. Wesley Scott - Milwaukee Urban League
Mrs. Marilyn Skenandore - American Indian Information and Action Group

12:00 - 12:30 Lunch

12:30 - 1:30 Preview Session

1:30 - 3:15 Curriculum Development Session

WEDNESDAY - AUGUST 11, 1971

8:30 - 10:15 Demonstration Session - High School Geography Project

10:15 - 10:30 Coffee Break

10:30 - 12:00 Major Address: "The Teacher's Role in Understanding Youth Problems in the Urban Setting"
Mr. E. Michael McCann
District Attorney, Milwaukee County

12:00 - 12:30 Lunch

12:30 - 1:30 Preview Session

1:30 - 3:15 Curriculum Development Session

THURSDAY - AUGUST 12, 1971

8:30 - 10:15 Demonstration Session - High School Geography Project

10:15 - 10:30 Coffee Break

10:30 - 12:00 Major Address: "Public Welfare"
Mr. Arthur Silverman
Director, Public Welfare
Milwaukee County

12:00 - 12:30 Lunch

12:30 - 1:30 Preview Session

1:30 - 3:15 Curriculum Development Session

FRIDAY - AUGUST 13, 1971

8:30 - 10:15 Major Address: "What's Wrong With Federal Spending?"
The Honorable William Proxmire
U. S. Senator

10:15 - 10:30 Coffee Break

10:30 - 12:00 Demonstration Session - High School Geography Project

12:00 - 12:30 Lunch

12:30 - 1:30 Preview Session

1:30 - 3:15 Curriculum Development Session

MONDAY - AUGUST 16, 1971

8:30 - 10:15 Demonstration Session - High School Geography Project

10:15 - 10:30 Coffee Break

10:30 - 12:00 Major Address: "The Newspaper in an Urban Setting"
Mr. Harry Hill
Assistant Managing Editor
The Milwaukee Journal

12:00 - 12:30 Lunch

12:30 - 1:30 Preview Session

1:30 - 3:15 Curriculum Development Session

TUESDAY - AUGUST 17, 1971

8:30 - 10:15 Demonstration Session - High School Geography Project

10:15 - 10:30 Coffee Break

10:30 - 12:00 Major Address: "The Southeast Wisconsin Region: Past, Present, and Future"
Mr. Kurt Bauer
Executive Director
Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

12:00 - 12:30 Lunch

12:30 - 1:30 Preview Session

1:30 - 3:15 Curriculum Development Session

WEDNESDAY - AUGUST 18, 1971

8:30 - 10:15 Major Address: "The Planned Community"
Mr. William Wenzler
President
William Wenzler and Associates - Architects

10:15 - 10:30 Coffee Break

10:30 - 12:00 Major Address: "Air Pollution: Past, Present, and Future"
Mr. Otto E. Dudy
Training and Information Offices
Milwaukee County Air Pollution Control Department

12:00 - 12:30 Lunch

12:30 - 1:30 Preview Session

1:30 - 3:15 Curriculum Development Session

THURSDAY - AUGUST 19, 1971

All-day field trip to:

1. Department of City Development
   210 West Michigan Street
   Host: Mr. Kenneth E. Fry
   Commissioner

2. On-site Visitation of Urban Renewal Projects
   Host: Mr. Henry Dillon
   Public Information Offices
   Department of City Development

3. Northridge Lakes Development Site
   Host: Mr. James McClintock
   William Wenzler and Associates - Architects

FRIDAY - AUGUST 20, 1971

8:30 - 10:15 Demonstration Session - High School Geography Project

10:15 - 10:30 Coffee Break

10:30 - 11:00 High School Geography Project Wrap-Up Session

11:00 - 12:00 Major Address: "The Citizen's View of Urban Problems"
Mr. Norman Gill
Executive Secretary
Citizens' Governmental Research Bureau

12:00 - 12:30 Lunch

12:30 - 1:30 Curriculum Development Session

1:30 - 2:30 Major Address: "The County Executive Looks at Metropolitan Problems"
The Honorable John L. Doyne
County Executive of Milwaukee County

2:30 - 3:15 Closing Session of Urban Studies Workshop

R/s